

Remarks

Claims 24-36, 39-43, 46-50, 53-57, 60-73 are currently pending.

The U.S. Patent Office indicated in the Office Communication, mailed December 16, 2003 that, “[t]he communication, filed on 9/26/03, is non-responsive to the prior Office Action, mailed 6/26/03, because the communication sets forth conflicting status indications for claim 24.”

Applicants submit that in addition to the Listing of Claim Status on page 2 of Applicants' response and amendment filed on September 26, 2003, the Remarks section on page 8, line 2 of said amendment also clearly states that “...claims 24-36, 39-43, 46-50, 53-57, 60-73 will be pending.” (Emphasis added).

Nevertheless, Applicants have herein corrected the obvious typographical error on page 2 of Applicants' response and amendment filed on September 26, 2003 to state that “1-23. (Cancelled).” Applicants submit that the Patent Office's concerns have been fully met and respectfully request entry of said amendment and consideration of the substantive remarks and amendments made in Applicants' submission of September 26, 2003. Applicants request that should other non-substantive issues arise with the present application, that the Patent Office call the undersigned for a more expedient resolution to any concern.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendment, Applicants believe they have fully addressed the Examiner's concerns and that this application is now in condition for allowance. An early notice to that effect is urged. A request is made to the Examiner to call the undersigned at the phone number provided below if any further action by Applicants would expedite allowance of this application.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 08-3425. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Dated: January 9, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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